

**Hajji Khamis Suleiman Yusuf Mirjangi**

**1328 – 1432 AH**

**1911 – 2011 CE**



## **Biography of Hajji Khamis Suleiman Yusuf Mirjangi**

Hajji Khamis was born in Mombasa, Kenya in the year 1328 AH / 1911 CE.

His original name given by his parents was Kher Muhammad but the Swahili people in Mombasa during that period of time were fond of naming children according to the day they were born and since he was born on a Thursday, they called him Khamisi. The title Hajji was given to him in Uganda later on in his life after performing pilgrimage in the Holy City of Makka.

His parents were of Baluchi origin who hailed from Makran, a semi-desert coastal strip in the south of Iran, along the coast of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. His parents migrated southwest in the early 1800's due to political turmoil and headed towards East Africa and finally settling in Mombasa Island along the coastal strip of Kenya.

He was born in a family of four brothers; Adam, Muhammad (Badi), Mirjangi and Khamis and one sister; Leilatun.

He met Sheikhul Islam Sayyid Abdulrahman Saggaf who was the Chief Kadhi of Kenya for the first time while at the age of 10 years in 1921.

He first got employed by an Indian from Goa as a food vendor at a young age and used to earn a meager salary of 10 shillings a month.

He used to lead the prayers at Baluchi mosque at makadara grounds in Mombasa from 1933 to 1935.

In the year 1936 he travelled to Uganda due to severe financial hardship in his family.

He settled in a small village called Kalaki near Soroti Town and this is where he got employed in a leather business and using his bicycle every day to collect animal skin from the nearby villages.

Years later he left for a town called Arua where he got a job of a salesperson in a shop owned by Hatom Jarishan. While in Arua he was given the responsibility of leading the prayers in the grand mosque of Arua town.

In 1940 he married Maryam, the daughter of Maula Abdulrasul Tajudin (who was the imam of Baluchi Mosque) and from this matrimonial bond, he had thirteen children:

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Suleiman (deceased) | 7. Mahnaz (deceased)  |
| 2. Is-haq              | 8. Hamida             |
| 3. Sharifa             | 9. AbdulAlim          |
| 4. Ibrahim (deceased)  | 10. Khalid (deceased) |
| 5. Yusuf               | 11. Zainab            |
| 6. Hussein (deceased)  |                       |

His other two children died in infancy.

In 1952 he performed his first pilgrimage in the Holy City of Makka together with Sharif Saeed bin Abdallah Al-Biidh, travelling by train to Uganda through Juba to Khartoum and finally by boat from Port Judeta across the Red Sea to Hijaz.

In 1954 he travelled to a village called Warr in Uganda where he settled and opened up his own enterprise. When they first arrived at Warr there wasn't even a single Muslim or mosque nearby.

In 1954 he invited Shariff Saeed to join him in Warr whereby Shariff Saeed requested Hajji Khamis to offer him one of his shops so as to do Daawa work and call people to the fold of Islam. Apart from spreading the message in Warr village, he also travelled with Shariff Saeed bin Abdallah Al-Biidh, village after village spreading the message and building mosques, with the first built in 1959.

Hajji Khamis built a total of 15 mosques in Uganda with his own finances. He met several challenges while doing the work of Allah. The Roman Catholic missionaries were not happy about seeing the mosques being built and they went on and constructed 12 churches surrounding the mosque in Warr village within a mile radius. His life was also threatened several times by the local Roman Catholic missionaries but he never gave up. He gave his all, spending both his money and time in spreading Islam.

Together with Shariff Saeed, they organized the first grand maulid celebration in the west Nile district in 1955. In 1957 they built the first madrasa and brought teachers from Kenya to teach; among the first teachers included Maalim Mahmud Charshambe, Shariff Abdullah Amin and many others.

He became famous such that even Idi Amin used to invite him when he hosted his annual maulid celebrations.

He lived in Warr village from 1954 till 1979 CE where he fled to Congo DRC (Zaire) because of political strife in Uganda. While in DRC he started doing Daawa work together with Sayyid Hussein bin Ahmad Badawy Jamalullayl and built a mosque and held the first grand maulid in Buniya in 1979.

In 1959 he travelled to Lamu together with his son Yusuf where he was hosted by Sayyid Aidarus Jamalul-layl at Habib Swaleh's house in Riyadhha. Habib Aidarus offered him to sleep on Habib Swaleh's bed, which he hesitated at first because of fear. The following night he was offered again and this time he accepted and slept on it throughout the night.

In 1988 is when he returned home in Mombasa and lived till he breathed his last.

Hajji Khamis studied under renowned scholars including the following:

1. Al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Twaha Al-Haddad
2. Al-Habib Sharif Saeed bin Abdallah Al-Biidh
3. Sheikh Muhammad bin Ahmad Al-Laamy (Sheikh Bereky)
4. Al-Habib Sayyid Abdulrahman Khitam Jamallullayl

While in Mombasa he held dhikr sittings every Sunday evenings and had annual maulid celebrations as well as Burda sittings in his home. He had a special love for the Ahlul Bayt and was a very generous person. He was closely attached to the erudite scholar, Qutbul Ghauth, Al-Imam Al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur bin Twaha Al-Haddad and many other scholars not only in East Africa but across the Muslim world especially the Habaib from Yemen.

He received several ijazas, hirqa, kofia and litanies from various great scholars and Habaib like the erudite Habib Umar bin Sumeyt, Habib Shariff Saeed bin Abdallah Al-Biidh, Habib Aidarus bin Habib Swaleh Jamalullayl, Habib Ali bin Ahmad Badawy Jamalullayl, Habib Umar bin Salim bin Hafidh, Habib Ali Al-Jufry and many others.

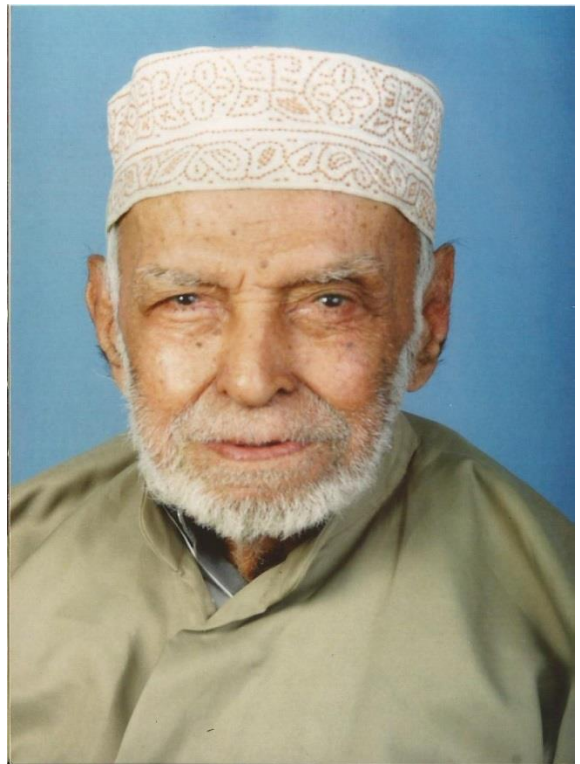
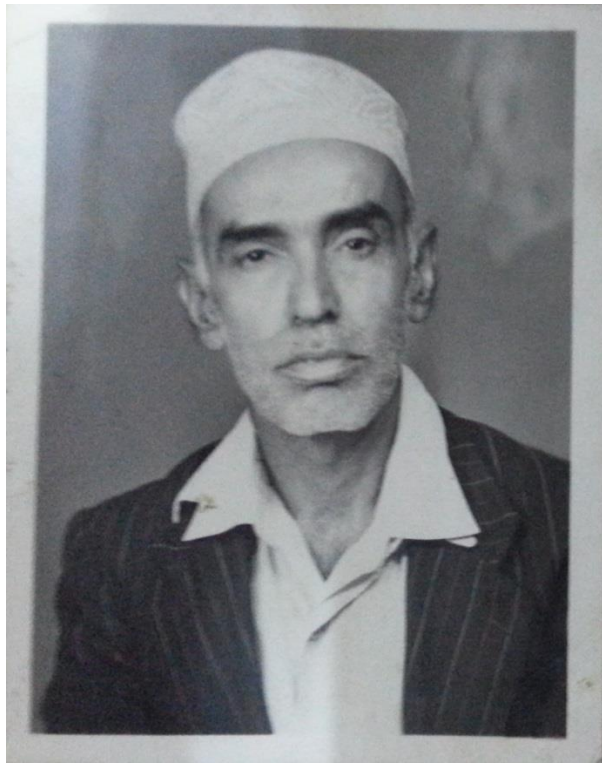
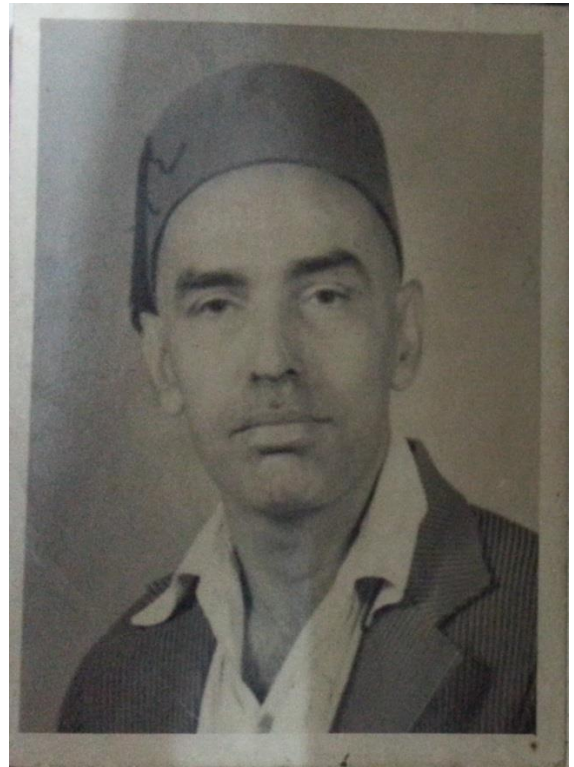
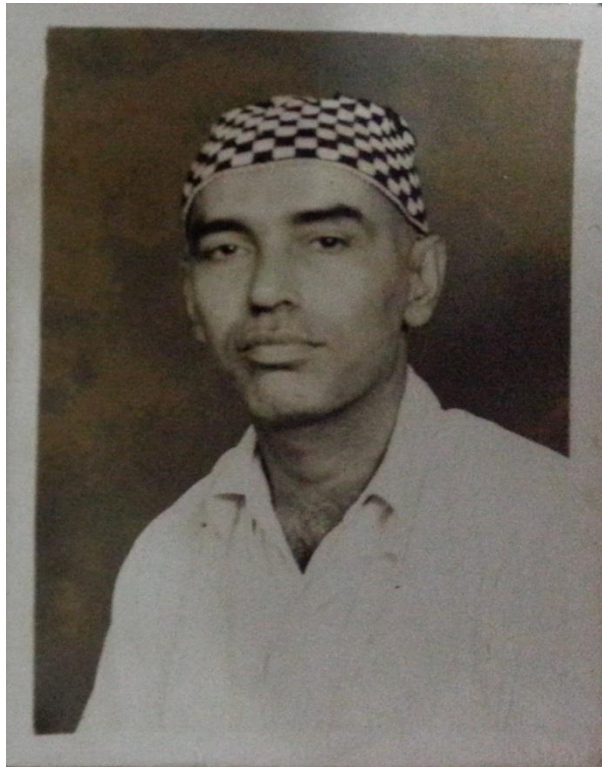
After performing five pilgrimages, Al-Habib Ahmad Mashhur directed Hajji Khamis to perform an extra 13 pilgrimages in his life, which he did.

He loved reading the Quran and this he did till his last day. He was an expert in reading using the Shela rhythm (tajweed ya kishela)

He passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011, / 28 Dhul Hijja 1432 AH at the age of over 100 years.

This biography was translated and annotated by Yaakub A. Sheikh from the original Swahili version written by his son, Hajji Yusuf bin Hajji Khamis





Hajji Khamis with Al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur Al-Haddad and Shariff Simba in Uganda



Hajji Khamis with Al-Habib Ahmad and the pigmies of Congo





Hajji Khamis with Al-Habib Ahmad Mash-hur Al-Haddad travelling to Congo



The Famous shop of Hajji Khamis which was the cause of reverting over 50,000 to Islam



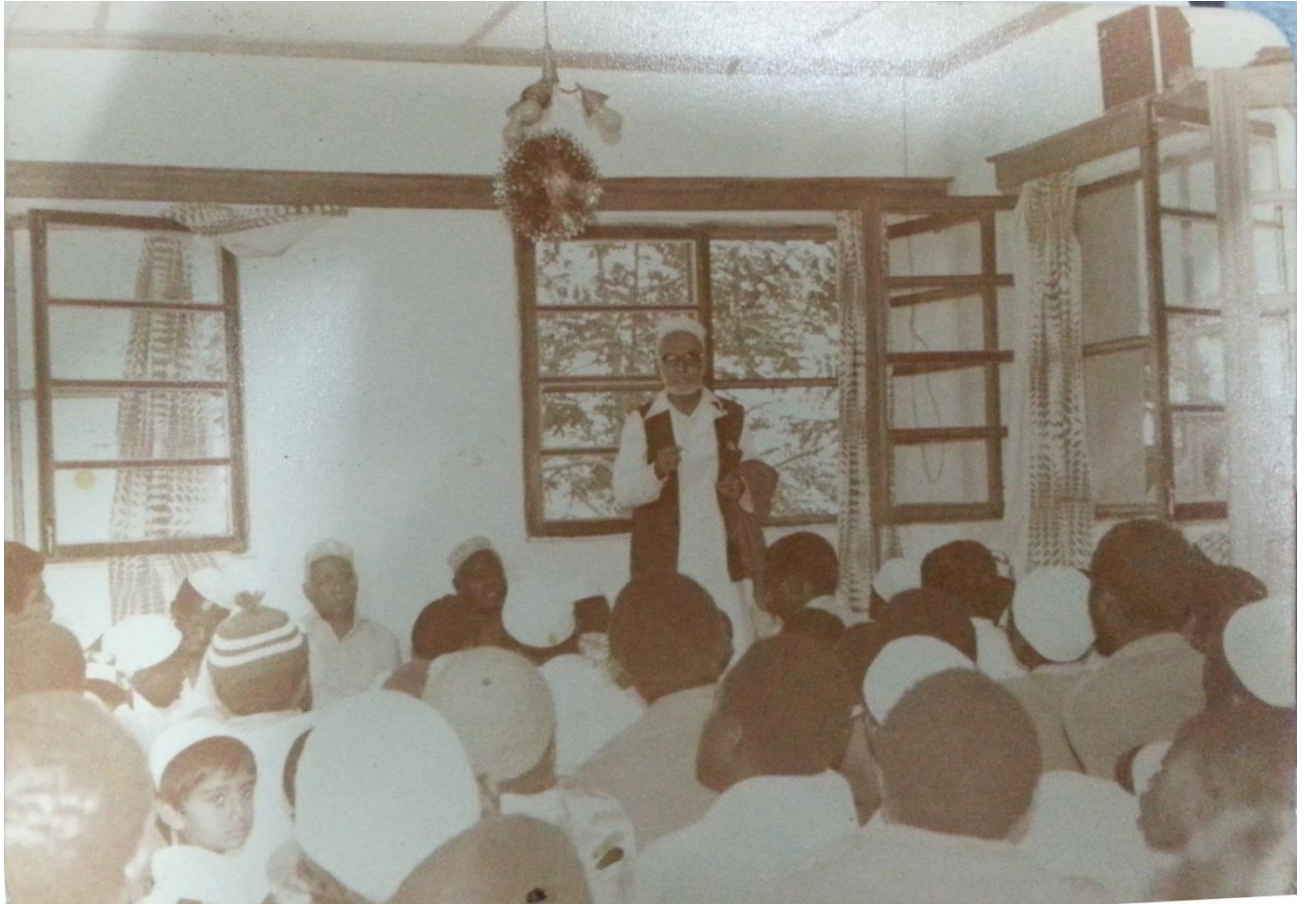
The leather store which Hajji Khamis used to work at in Uganda



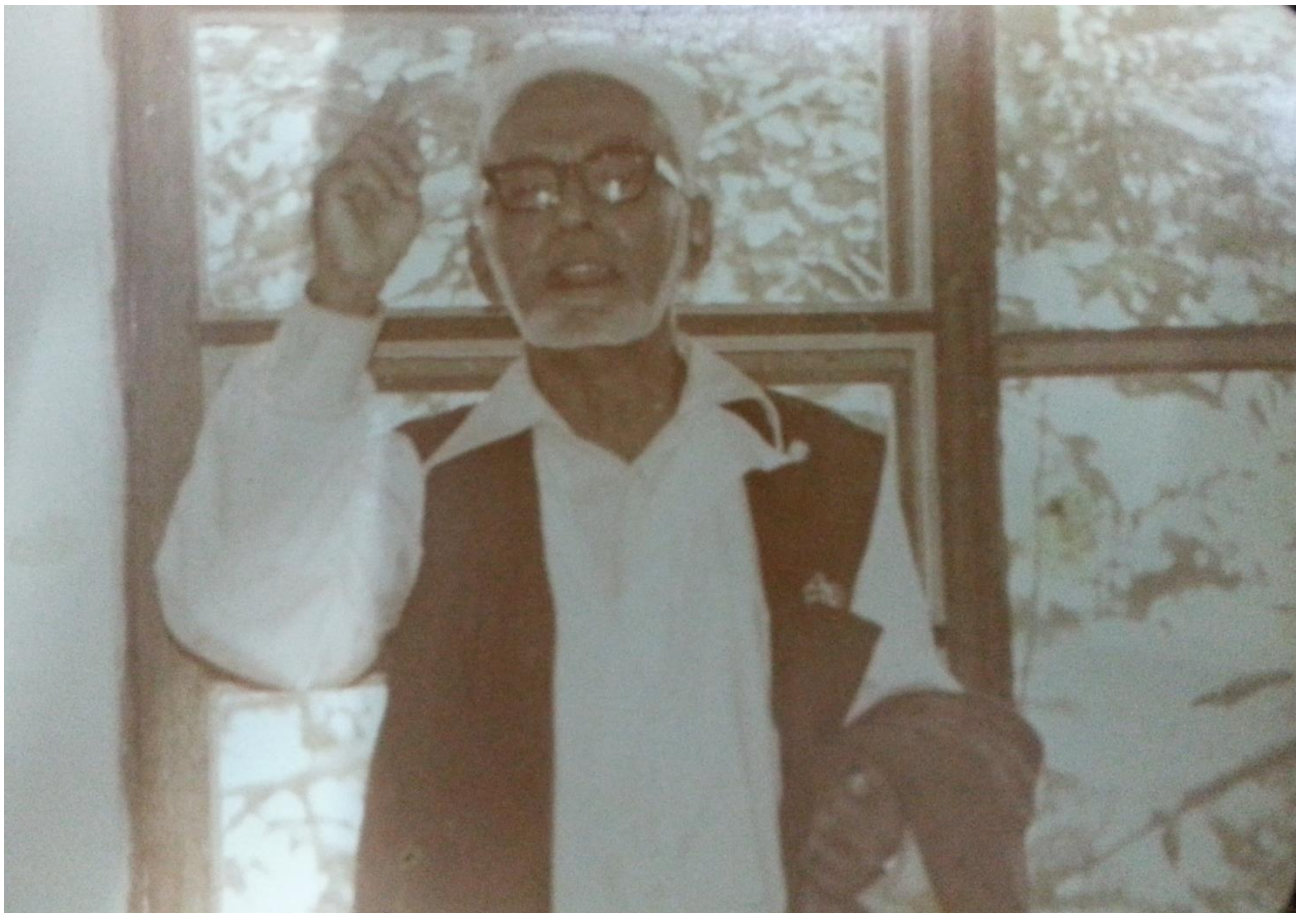
One of the earliest mosques built by Hajji Khamis in Uganda







Hajji Khamis giving a lecture in one the maulid celebrations in Uganda





The team which used to play the tambourines during the maulid celebrations hosted by  
Hajji Khamis in Uganda